

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Davidson. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In Response to Arguments in paragraph 4, on page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that the claims do not recite a “second connection” as alleged by Applicant. Applicant’s believe that the Examiner has misinterpreted the argument posed in the previously filed amendment. Hence, further explanation is provided below.

Davidson is directed to information regarding switch hook status of a subscriber terminal being determined by reading the status information of subscribers in a memory and sending it to a coverage terminal. While setting up a connection may indeed occur in Davidson, there is no disclosure that teaches a separate connection for transmission of signaling information between a calling subscriber terminal and an accepting subscriber terminal for both incoming and outgoing calls.

The instant invention allows handling of an incoming call to a subscriber terminal of a subscriber group or an outgoing call from the subscriber terminal, within a switching center. Specifically, when there is an incoming call, a connection is established between the calling subscriber terminal (for example TLN-F) and at least one of the accepting subscriber terminals (for example TLN-B) (Fig. 1); and when there is an outgoing call, a connection is established between the calling subscriber terminal (for example TLN-B) and at least one of the accepting subscriber terminals (for example TLN-F) (Fig. 3). Davidson, on the other hand, does not disclose this additional connection based on the signaling information. Moreover, the of hook information is stored within a control unit, which controls a group of terminals and supports other terminals with the correct information.

Since the recited structure and method are not disclosed by the applied prior art, claims 1 and 8 are patentable. Claims 2-7, depending directly or indirectly from claim 1, are similarly patentable.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 449122026200. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

Kevin R. Spivak

Registration No.: 43,148

MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP

1650 Tysons Blvd, Suite 300

McLean, Virginia 22102

(703) 760-7762